

44. The method of Claim 43, wherein the successive field of each assigned cell immediately precedes the subsequent successive field in the ordered plurality of successive fields.

45. The method of Claim 43, wherein the step of assigning includes the steps of assigning a unique identifier to each cell of a field combination map of a successive field of the ordered plurality of successive fields, and associating each unique identifier with a unique field combination map of a subsequent successive field of the ordered plurality of successive fields.

46. The method of Claim 41, wherein each successive field of the ordered plurality of successive fields includes at least two binary input variables of the plurality of binary input variables, and wherein each cell of the plurality of cells of a field combination map of a successive field represents a unique binary combination of the binary input variables of said successive field.

47. The method of Claim 41, wherein the method further comprises a step of displaying arrows extending between the associated field combination maps of successive fields of the ordered plurality of successive fields.

48. The method of Claim 41, wherein at least one field combination map includes a Karnaugh map.

49. The method of Claim 41, wherein at least one field combination map includes a truth table.

REMARKS

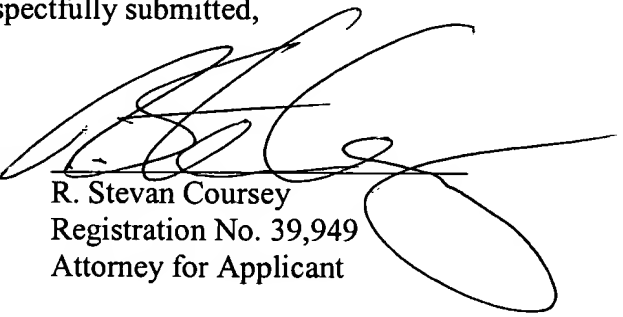
The present Preliminary Amendment is filed for the above-identified patent application to amend the claims by canceling pending Claim 1 and by adding new Claims 2-49. As amended, the application has a total of forty-nine (49) claims, of which four (4) are independent claims.

Accordingly, enclosed herewith is a check in the amount of \$303.00 to cover the fees associated with the additional claims in excess of three (3) independent claims and twenty (20) total claims. If any additional fees are deemed due, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 20-1507.

Applicants contend that the now pending Claims 2-49 include elements and limitations which are patentably distinct over the prior art and, hence, are patentable. Thus, Applicants submit that the present patent application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application is hereby courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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